

LARGE YIELD OF CROPS AN AID TO ACTIVITY

COMMERCE HEADS SEE PROSPERITY INCREASE

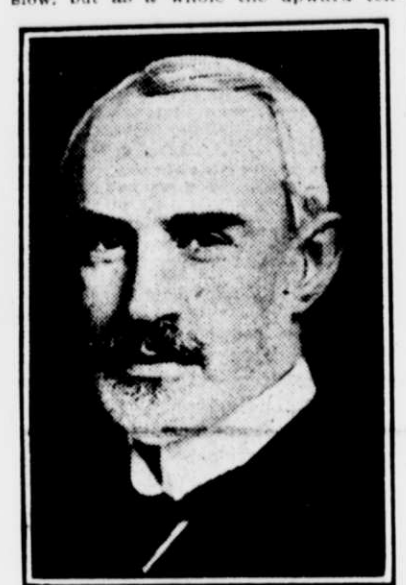
Officers of National Organization Report Strong Upward Tendency—Crop Yield Large—Money Plentiful for All Legitimate Purposes.

Reports to THE SUN from the officers and directors of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States indicate that there is a widespread feeling of optimism regarding the business prospects for the coming season. The men who were communicated with give in their messages a view that is more than local. With facilities for informing themselves on the situation in a number of States they are convinced, they say, that business along many lines has picked up during the summer months and that the outlook for the next few months is very encouraging.

It is reported that the upward tendency is strong and that despite the heavy rains the crop yield is to be plentiful. THE SUN'S informants say that money is plentiful and that business needs only to hold steadily to its present direction in order to make all necessary investments available. From the South comes a word of hope respecting the cotton situation. Producers there appear to be convinced that the English embargo has been discounted and that a way will be found to market the crop at a profit.

Many who have kept an eye on the situation say that it is impossible to put aside the effects of the war in Europe as a big factor in making any forecast of what will happen in the next six months. Nevertheless there is no mistaking the impression that despite war considerations business generally is working its way steadily to a prosperous condition.

JOHN H. FAHEY, president of Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Boston, Mass., Aug. 28.—I believe the outlook for business for next year is excellent. All indications which come to the headquarters of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States are in that direction. In some lines, of course, business will undoubtedly be slow, but as a whole the upward tendency is strong.



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John H. Fahey.

deney is very strong. Indeed, in lines of business in which I am personally interested the improvement has been steady during the past few months and the prospects are much better for the coming fall and winter.

JOSEPH H. DEFREES, vice-president Chamber of Commerce of the United States, New York, Aug. 28.—Business is stagnant in most lines not affected by war orders. I believe this stagnation is partly psychological and partly due to the disruption, incident to the war, of the lines of trade that radiate throughout the world.

Except for the foregoing I believe all conditions are ripe for an era of great business activity and expansion with consequent prosperity if our increased means arising from bountiful crops, recent economic and the possible extension of credits under our new currency law are properly safeguarded by our financial guardians, the bankers, to prevent undue speculation.

The disruption of trade conditions is being adjusted, and the other conditions making for good business will, if our differences with Germany and Great Britain are happily settled, as seems probable, I believe soon overcome the apprehensions which have heretofore held them in check and we will be busy in all lines upon a basis of good profit.

W. A. SKINNER, acting secretary Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Washington, Aug. 28.—According to reports following a careful canvass of the country by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States through its committee on statistics and standards, of which A. W. Douglas, of St. Louis, is chairman, conditions in future business conditions has grown apace with the steady progress of the crops and the slow but continual improvement in industrial affairs.

The former feeling of apprehension is rapidly disappearing and there is a confident belief that business is bound to improve and show distinct advancement. There still continues, however, much conservatism and caution in buying and in new commitments. The feeling seems to be that it is best to wait until the results of the crops are known beyond question before venturing in a more extended way, and as a consequence stocks of merchandise throughout the country continue light.

Of course a large factor in the crop situation has been the excessive rains prevalent in almost all sections of the country. Fortunately it looks as if the effects of the abnormal demand of the war on business in Europe, the wheat increase this season in this country increased beyond any previous planting.

The estimated probable yield of spring and winter wheat will be 945,500,000 bushels. The present estimate for corn is a crop about 10 per cent. greater than last year. This may set a new high record. As a whole the cotton crop has done well and is in generally good condition. Fruit is both abundant and cheap. Because of abundant food and lower prices the raising of live stock is a growing industry in all sections of the country. Lumber interests everywhere are quiet. Coal mining is doing satisfactory reports come from the West and along the Atlantic coast. Steel and iron business shows distinct improvement with increasing orders. Shipbuilding is running three-quarters time. The industry on the whole is exceedingly dull. In conclusion, manu-

facturing varies according to articles made, though in general is very quiet.

EASTERN STATES.

JAMES H. CUTLER, president Cutler Mail Chute Company and member of the Chamber of Commerce, Rochester, N. Y., Aug. 28.—Replying to your request for an expression of opinion on the subject, the present condition of general business is obviously unsatisfactory, and while there appears to be some slight improvement here and there it is not reassuring, because merely spasmodic.

Banks have more money than they can profitably employ, because the slow movement of business creates a feeling of anxiety and disquietude on the part of those who would ordinarily be investors paralyzing investment demand.

The fundamental trouble seems to be an unreasoning antagonism against public service and private corporations and against wealth or accumulated capital in any of its various manifestations. Railroads are strangled and strangled and other large business enterprises with the same irrelevance and irresponsibility that children show in pulling the legs of a grasshopper.

Unorganized labor does not seem to see that in cheering the demagogues, legislative and executive, who pander to its unreasonable demands it is killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. The war in Europe is the convenient scapegoat, but the serious cause is much nearer home. Labor is not effective without capital with which it can be employed. Capital cannot be coerced either by statute or by organized labor into unpromising investment, and so money piles up in the banks, railroads go into receivers' hands, retail trade languishes, and men wonder why they cannot get work.

Never having learned that natural economic laws cannot be suspended for the benefit of labor, any more than the law of gravitation is suspended in the interest of the innocent occupant of a house, the business community, the foolishness seems likely to go on until common sense application of the fundamentals of economics is substituted for emotional insanity in dealing with business conditions in the United States.

CHARLES E. HILBRETH, general manager of National Machine Tool Builders Association, Worcester, Mass., Aug. 28.—Replying to your inquiry relative to my views on the business outlook for the next six months, would say they are very optimistic. Should the war continue for that period or longer, demand for munitions and supplies must continue as at present and the money being received for these commodities continue as at present to stimulate other lines of industry.

Now whether the war closes or not, money is rapidly depreciating, or, in other words, its purchasing power is falling. The price of commodities are proportionately advancing, yet no money is destroyed, but is ever increasing, while that which money exchanges for is being rapidly lessened in quantity.

The logical consequence of this disturbance in the relation of the quantity of money to the quantity of commodities is bound to stimulate the production of commodities of all kinds or, in other words, to stimulate all sorts of productive enterprises. This means simply that good business is to be the consequence of this war for a period of years, barring unforeseen contingencies.

The bumper crops this fall will as always contribute to this. This logical increase should bring such a tax on the railway carrying capacity as to compel their appearance in the market which in the past has always preceded general prosperity.

The demand for machinery abroad has been so insistent that the absolute necessities of the home market have been set aside. These necessary purchases alone will constitute a big buying before long. Practically any way you can look at the situation it shows the brightest prospects for this country for several years to come.

WILLIAM H. DOUGLAS, executive committee member of Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Magnolia, Mass., Aug. 30.—Great prosperity will favor our nation unless all signs fall. Business is sound everywhere. The country is a firm national policy regarding our cotton rights should largely relieve that situation. Our tariff troubles fortunately will remain a tariff issue during the war and our home industries will be free from severe outside competition.

The most important question to solve is to insure our continued prosperity at home and to expand our commercial importance abroad in the shipping problem, which becomes daily a more serious menace to the farmer, the cotton grower, the manufacturer and the mill maker of all classes of goods. The rates charged by alien companies are exorbitant, delays great and it is practically impossible to secure tonnage for special cargo requirements.

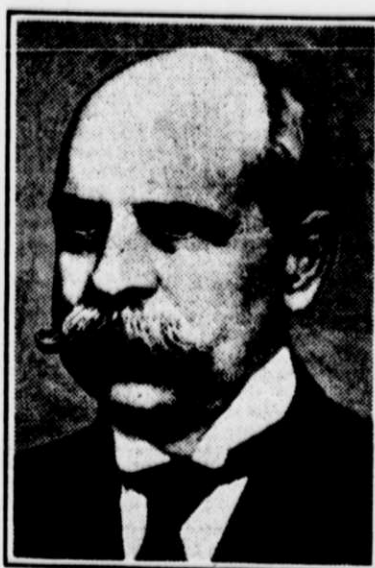
The Government should abandon its stupid policy of proposed ownership and operation and listen to the advice of those who know something about ocean traffic and its necessities. The country will approve of any expenditure, no matter how large, for relief during the war, and will also endorse ample yearly expenditure necessary to establish our own lines to all important foreign markets.

The export trade should be energetically cultivated by our merchants and manufacturers. The Argentine and Brazil are showing signs of financial improvement; also Peru and Chile, Australia and South Africa are being freed. The East generally, and especially China and Japan are placing far more. We should clear up the Mexican situation promptly before the European war is over, and above all we must keep out of that miserable affair.

Events are shaping to make us the leading world nation. Therefore let all our citizens heed so to may be won the position we will be called on to occupy.

SOUTHERN STATES.

JOHN H. REYNOLDS, president First National Bank of Rome, Ga., member Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Hot Springs, Va., Aug. 28.—The current rises and falls so rapidly these days that it is difficult to have fixed views on business in Georgia. Business has been very dull the past summer, excepting in the peach section, awaiting outcome of the crops. The war cut a big figure. Fortunately it looks as if continued peace with Germany, thanks to Mr. Wilson's policy, is to be expected. England will undoubtedly buy from us in addition to her own needs the amount



Joseph H. Emery.

of cotton usually taken by Germany but now prevented by the embargo. This should insure good prices for cotton. The South will have good corn and hay crops, all of which will be plentiful. The cotton crop has been made cheaply.

The banks are well supplied with reserves anticipating crop marketing. Thanks to the reserve banks, to Secretary McAdoo, and to the "big banks" the money centers of the South will not only be able to market its crops quickly but if need be hold and market slowly, thus avoiding a disastrous no demand market.

The ally feature of the day is the disposition of some moneyed men in the center to punish the whole of Georgia. The moneyed men have a feature of finance in the United States is the attempt to punish financially and otherwise the whole people of Georgia for the criminal act of a few of a fine community. There is no finer citizenship than that of Marietta and Cobb counties. The people of Georgia, many of whom believe Frank innocent, and many of whom approve of Governor Slaton's commutation, deeply deplore the disgrace to the State.

An inquiry as to probable demand for the bonds of a prosperous county in high credit was answered as follows: "Owing to the recent lynching of Frank, do not believe that it would be possible to sell Georgia municipal or county bonds in the North at the present time."

T. L. L. TEMPLE, director of Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Texarkana, Ark., Aug. 28.—As all are agreed much depends upon the ending of the European war. Notwithstanding the fact that continued rains have greatly damaged wheat and other crops, the farmers throughout the whole country are in a very prosperous condition.

Cotton acreage in the South considerably reduced and a considerable area has been destroyed by storm and floods. There is also a feeling of more or less doubt as to what may be expected in the way of a market for this year's crop, yet there is an abundance of money available to the cotton grower for a favorable market.

The South has no doubt produced this year the greatest small grain and feed crops in its history, so not only is there no necessity for buying feed stuff but on the contrary there will be a surplus. On the whole the general business outlook to my mind holds greater promise of a good time ahead than at any time since before the outbreak of the war.

LEON C. SIMON of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, New Orleans, Aug. 28.—Compared with the same time last year, the general business outlook for the coming season in this part of the South is very promising. Cotton has been much more cheaply made than in years and will sell at a very good price, considering the cost of production, despite having been made contraband.

There has been an extended diversification of crops which has met with much success, the only drawback being the lack of market for some of the products. A large crop of corn and forage crops have been made and are almost entirely harvested. The rice crop is large and it seems as if it will bring a fair price.

The sugar crop will most probably be larger than last year and there is every reason to believe that prices will be high. Animal raising has become this year a full fledged industry in this section and several packing houses are being planned. Lumber is still largely depressed but is showing improvement. The wholesale and manufacturing trade of New Orleans is much better than last year at the same period.

This week there was held here a buyers' convention, attended by merchants from seven States, and the business done was at least 50 per cent. more than through the convention held last fall. All things considered, and comparatively speaking, this section has reason to feel optimistic.

WESTERN STATES.

HENRY B. JOY, president Packard Motor Car Company of Detroit, director of Chamber of Commerce of the United States, Watch Hill, R. I., Aug. 28.—To believe that the prosperity wave which is broadly expanding throughout this country, originating largely in lines of business and allied lines receiving orders from belligerent nations, is caused by intelligent and wise laws passed by last Congress is to positively close one's eyes to plain facts in the records of industry and trade during the last two years.

The rapid decline in business during the months prior to the outbreak of the war was the nightmare of every manufacturer and merchant. The tens and hundreds of thousands of unemployed, factories and mills running three and four days a week, the rapidly accumulating balance of trade against the United States, the falling Government revenues necessitating the deficiency income tax, the entire failure of the new tariff law, the utter prostration of business generally—these things and many more are all facts in the record.

The purchases in this country of the warring nations have changed the balance of trade to upward of \$20,000,000 a week in our favor.

The war also superseded the Democratic tariff bill and put into force the most effective protective tariff ever in existence; we could no longer buy abroad. Whatever we required we had to buy from our own mills and factories. The British, navy kept the high seas open for our shipping trade.

So long as these conditions of commerce and protective tariff exist a continued improvement in business conditions will result. New industries are being of necessity established which former tariffs did not make possible of existence here.

It is impossible to predict how soon after the cessation of the war European products will again begin to flood the country and drive Americans out of employment. There will necessarily also continue to be large purchases by Euro-

pean nations until conditions approach the normal.

The motor car industry is having a heavy trade in low priced cars on account of the immense buying capacity of the agricultural sections and the costlier cars are participating. War order business in motor vehicle lines I do not consider much of a factor.

HOVEY C. CLARKE of Minneapolis Chamber of Commerce; member of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States; MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., Aug. 27.—The States of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Montana are now harvesting the largest crops ever grown in these States. The yield is not only large but the weight is heavy, making the grades as a whole the best ever produced. The last sixty days with such crops in sight have seen great stimulation in all lines of business but also the butter for the season.

The answer given by business men to the question, "How is business?" is "Good; our sales are increasing daily." The banks in the Twin Cities have greatly increased deposits than a year ago and are ready to care for the prospective demands.

These demands will be for an unusually longer period because it is thought that exports will be hampered by lack of ocean transportation, necessitating longer storage in the terminal elevators.

From the point of view of the Northwest there can be but one opinion, and that is one of optimism. The Northwest is now prepared to furnish not only the bread and butter of the United States, but also the cotton for the manufacture of the East.

Stated briefly, it is that the United States is headed for a period of prosperity. My business, manufacturer of lumber, is always the last to go down and the last to come up. We have had seven years on the down grade, now the reaction is found to come because of the wealth that has come from the soil. Even if the war ended soon there will be no adverse reaction, as the impetus of prosperity is too well started to be checked.

I short, the Northwest is highly optimistic.

PACIFIC COAST.

PAUL T. CARROLL of the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce; member Chamber of Commerce of the United States; SAN FRANCISCO, Cal., Aug. 28.—I am pleased to avail myself of the opportunity to give expression to my opinion as to the general business outlook. I have personally spent this day effecting plans for an event of the utmost significance in the way of an answer to your query. In conjunction with fellow committee members of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition, we have completed plans to hold a celebration one week hence at the exposition grounds, during which we will burn the remaining notes and mortgages outstanding against the exposition, and we will announce that this world achievement is out of debt.

The event in view of worldwide conditions is of particular value to all loyal Americans from a financial and national viewpoint. San Francisco as the center of Western activity is glad to note a revival of prosperous times. Favorable crop conditions, building activities, largely increased tonnage and value of imports and exports and increased trade conditions are accountable. Retail trade commissions in this metropolitan area would show a 20 per cent. increase.

WESTCHESTER TYPHOID SITUATION IS SERIOUS

Eighteen Cases and One Death So Far Reported—Milk Supply Is Suspected.

WHITE PLAINS, N. Y., Aug. 28.—Westchester county is threatened with a severe typhoid fever epidemic. Eighteen cases of the disease have been reported in this city and the towns bordering on it. The town of Greenburgh reports seven cases, White Plains six, Scarsdale four and Eastchester one.

Most of those suffering from the disease are patients in the White Plains Hospital. There has been but one death among the eighteen, and that occurred in the hospital yesterday. The authorities refuse to give any information about the case, even the name of the dead person being withheld.

The situation became so serious during the last few days that the State Department of Health has taken charge of the fight against the disease, and Dr. Willard J. Denno of New York, acting sanitary supervisor of Westchester county, is investigating in an attempt to ascertain the cause of the epidemic. Dr. Denno has caused the water supplies of the county to be analyzed, but no impurities have been found.

The investigators are working now on the theory that the epidemic may have been caused by milk. The supply of milk used extensively in the towns affected comes from the country around Chatham, N. Y.

Dr. Ralph E. Ryan of Scarsdale is in charge in that town and last week he inoculated 150 of the residents with the typhoid serum from the United States army. The same means curbing the epidemic is being employed by Drs. F. F. Briggs and L. B. Chapman in White Plains.

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O'LOUGHLIN ACCUSES CROPSY OF TRICK

Charges District Attorney of Opposing Him to Dodge Another Term.

Register E. T. O'Loughlin of Brooklyn has not yet recovered from the shock of being rejected for renomination by the Republicans. He issued another long statement yesterday, chiding the Republican leaders for allowing District Attorney Cropsy to dictate the removal of his name from the slate.

He asserts that even after objection was made to him by Mr. Cropsy the Republican managers continued to dicker with him and assure him of a renomination in case he succeeded in inducing W. R. Hearst not to support County Judge Hyman. Mr. O'Loughlin also says that he was informed by a man high in Republican councils that Mr. Cropsy really had no intention to run for reelection and that his opposition to the renomination of O'Loughlin for Register was due to the District Attorney's desire to have his own name taken off the ticket.

Mr. O'Loughlin predicts that Mr. Cropsy will accomplish this purpose before primary day. He suggested a county ticket with his own name for Register and Republicans, Democrats and Progressives as his associates.

The Republican managers said yesterday that nothing Mr. O'Loughlin might say or do would have any effect upon their plans, and that there was no doubt that Cropsy's name would be on the ticket. The other candidates on the slate are:

For Supreme Court, Stephen Callaghan; For County Clerk, Charles S. Devoy; For Sheriff, William Schmittman; For Register, John MacCraty; For County Court, Harry E. Lewis, Marcus R. Campbell and George B. Friedman.

Congressman John J. Fitzgerald is assured the Democratic nomination for Supreme Court Justice.

The Democratic slate for the County Court nominations is Robert H. Roy, John F. Hyman and Mitchell May, but so far no final choice has been made of the candidates for District Attorney, County Clerk, Sheriff and Register.

Some of the Democratic managers are in favor of nominating O'Loughlin for Register.

INSURGENTS BUSY TO-DAY. Prominent Democrats of Queens who are opposed to the ticket recently designated by the county executive committee will announce to-day the candidates that will be selected to oppose the organization ticket at the primaries. It is understood that James P. Hicks of Long Island City will be the candidate for Sheriff nomination. The regular organization Friday designated Alfred Benninger of Ridgewood for the office.

There are several candidates for the various offices and the opposition intends to conduct a vigorous fight at the primaries. The organization has made its selection for every office except Alderman in the Sixty-ninth district. This district is believed to be Democratic, but for four years has been represented by Charles A. Post, a Republican.

BELIEVE WOMAN POISONED HER OFFICIALS to Exhume Body of Widow Who Willed Fortune.

LEXINGTON, Ky., Aug. 28.—The body of Aunt Polly Davis, the wealthy Breathitt county widow whose murder Mrs. Mamie Hamlin of Fayetteville, Ark., has been indicted, and Mrs. Clara Myers, charged with being an accessory, will probably be examined to determine whether poison really caused death.

Mrs. Hamlin and Mrs. Myers had been in Breathitt county for nine months. They came, it is said, to engage in missionary work and met Mrs. Davis, who was interested in church affairs. Mrs. Davis tried to persuade Mrs. Myers to erect a church and finally, it is charged, obtained her consent to leave enough money at her death to build a house of worship.

The will, which was offered for probate and which Judge Flenor, Mrs. Hamlin's attorney, withdrew when he became convinced that it was forged, provided not only for building a church but left the remainder of \$20,000 to religious purposes, with Mrs. Hamlin as trustee. Mrs. Davis's son was cut off.

During those vacation periods, the letter says, "corporate stock to the amount of \$2,747,352 has been voted by the Board of Estimate and added to the city debt without the final and controlling action thereon by the Board of Aldermen called for by the city Charter. The Charter allows six weeks for action by the Board of Aldermen on corporate stock appropriations. On September 16 an additional \$458,162 in corporate stock will become a tax burden without action by your board."

The two prolonged vacations voted to themselves by the Aldermen therefore will have added \$3,205,514 to the city debt without any of the items making up this sum having received the slightest attention from your board, or having even been brought to its official attention.

The average vacation in city departments is two and sometimes three weeks. The Aldermen with their eleven weeks receive \$33,000 in salaries, or \$300 for each working day in the entire period. This outlay represents part of the loss to the taxpayers apart from the board's failure to vote upon or consider in any way the corporate stock issues in excess of \$3,205,514.

He also accuses the Aldermen body of breaking the law. The city Charter says that whenever any proposal for creating a debt by the issue of bonds

has been approved by the Board of Estimate the Aldermen, upon receiving a copy of the resolution or vote, shall set a day "not less than one week nor more than two weeks after receipt thereof for the consideration of the subject matter."

Mr. Bullock continues: "The Board of Aldermen has not fixed a date for consideration of any of the corporate stock matters in question and in thus neglecting its duty has become a lawbreaking body."

Under their vacation resolution the Aldermen will not meet again until September 21, Mr. Bullock says that under the law there must be a special meeting within the next two weeks.

LOSS ON BRIDGE TRAFFIC. Operating Companies Answer Kracke—Brief Is Filed.

The loss is so heavy on through service over the Williamsburg Bridge that the profits from local bridge service do not begin to compensate the companies for this loss.

This is the reply of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit and the New York Railways companies, which run through cars over the bridge, and the Bridge Operating Company, a union of the two other concerns, which operates the local cars, to the contention of Bridge Commissioner Kracke that the Bridge Operating Company should greatly increase its rates of \$10,000 a year which it pays to the city. He has refused to renew the contract at the old figures, and cars are now running because of an interim agreement ending on November 20.

In a brief filed with the Board of Estimate the three operating companies say that the fourteen through lines of the B. R. T. which use the bridges earned over their entire routes in the year 1914 a surplus of only \$25,189 over fixed charges on gross earnings of \$3,965,850. This B. R. T. has a total of seventy surface lines, says the brief, and they earned \$1,679,000 over operating expenses and fixed charges in the year 1914. In 1915 the four through lines crossing the Williamsburg Bridge ought to have contributed \$336,000 to this surplus against an actual contribution of only \$25,189.

According to the brief the three important through lines operated across the bridge by the New York Railways Company lost \$247,000 a year on their bridge mileage.

ALDERMEN ATTACKED FOR LONG VACATIONS

William Bullock Says City Business Is Slighted and Charter Violated.

A new line of attack on the Board of Aldermen has been found by William Bullock, director of the bureau of city inquiry, which is supported by Tammany. He says it is slighting the city's business and violating the Charter by taking a vacation of eleven weeks.

In an open letter to President McAneny which Mr. Bullock made public yesterday he notes that the Aldermen suspended their meetings for eleven weeks last year and this year are doing the same thing.

"During those vacation periods," the letter says, "corporate stock to the amount of \$2,747,352 has been voted by the Board of Estimate and added to the city debt without the final and controlling action thereon by the Board of Aldermen called for by the city Charter. The Charter allows six weeks for action by the Board of Aldermen on corporate stock appropriations. On September 16 an additional \$458,162 in corporate stock will become a tax burden without action by your board."

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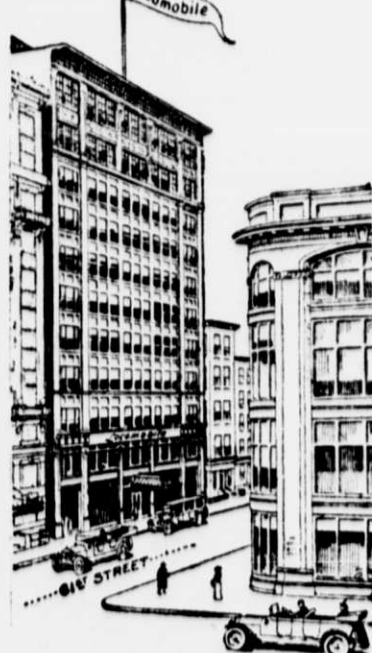
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